

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CSCE, PROP, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER SUMMONED TO  
DEPARTMENT

REF: A. MOSCOW 16802, B. STATE 167923

1. SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT CALLED IN A SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS  
OFFICER JULY 19 AND DISCUSSED DETAILS OF THE TASS SAN  
FRANCISCO BUREAU. THE AMERICAN PRESS HAD ERRONEOUSLY  
REPORTED THAT THE USG HAD ORDERED THE BUREAU CLOSED. END  
SUMMARY.

2. AS PART OF THE CONTINUING USG RESPONSE TO THE WHITNEY

AND PIPER SLANDER CASE, EUR/SOV DEPUTY DIRECTOR MCCALL  
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JULY 19 CALLED IN ACTING HEAD OF SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS  
SECTION BORIS NIKOLAYEVICH DAVYDOV, TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF  
TASS OPERATION IN SAN FRANCISCO.

3. ERRONEOUS JULY 18 PRESS ACCOUNTS OUT OF WASHINGTON HAD  
INDICATED THAT TASS HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO DEPARTMENT AND  
THAT THE SAN FRANCISCO BUREAU HAD BEEN ORDERED CLOSED.

IN CORRECTING THAT MISINFORMATION, DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN HAD GIVEN OUT DAVYDOV'S NAME AND TIME OF APPOINTMENT AT JULY 19 NOON BRIEFING, AND SIZABLE CONTINGENT OF

AMERICAN REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN WERE LYING IN WAIT FOR HIM AT C STREET ENTRANCE, JOINED BY GROUP OF PEOPLE IN BUILDING FOR LARGE MEETING IN DEPARTMENT'S EAST AUDITORIUM ARRANGED BY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY.

4. HOWEVER, DAVYDOV WAS BROUGHT INTO 21ST STREET ENTRANCE: AVOIDING PRESS AND DEMONSTRATION ON BEHALF OF SHCHARANSKIY BY NCSJ CONTINGENT WHICH WAS DIRECTED AT CONFUSED ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT WHO HAPPENED BY.

5. MCCALL OPENED MEETING BY INQUIRING ABOUT TASS SAN FRANCISCO -- SOVIET EMBASSY'S JUNE 3 LIST HAD SHOWN ONLY VITALIY CHUKSEYEV, BUT DEPARTMENT RECORDS INDICATED VISAS HAD ALSO BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR VLADIMIR VASHEDCHENKO AND BORIS YUZHIN. DAVYDOV REPLIED THAT YUZHIN HAD ARRIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO SINCE THE JUNE 3 LIST AND HE UNDERTOOK TO FIND OUT ABOUT VASHEDCHENKO. MCCALL ASKED ABOUT SECRETARIES, TELETYPEISTS AND SUPPORT STAFF, AND DAVYDOV SAID HE WOULD FIND OUT.

6. MCCALL ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF TASS-UPI AGREEMENT FOR SAN FRANCISCO AND LENINGRAD NOW THAT UPI LENINGRAD HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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CLOSED DOWN. DAVYDOV DISPUTED THAT THERE WAS ANY SUCH AGREEMENT, AND SAID THE TWO OFFICES OPENED UNDER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CSCE. DAVYDOV CHARACTERIZED ANY UPI-TASS AGREEMENT AS TECHNICAL AND ONLY INCIDENTAL TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.

7. MCCALL ALSO ASKED HOW TASS TRANSMITS ITS COPY TO THE USSR, AND WHAT LEASES IT HAS IN SAN FRANCISCO. DAVYDOV SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE.

8. IN RESPONSE DAVYDOV COMPLAINED ABOUT "UNUSUAL MANNER" IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WAS HANDLING THE MATTER-- IT HAD MADE ITS POSITION KNOWN TO THE PRESS WITH "ALL KINDS OF COMMENTS" BEFORE DISCUSSING IT WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. DAVYDOV NOTED THAT HIS MEETING HAD BEEN PUBLICIZED IN THE PRESS BEFORE HE HAD EVEN BEEN CALLED. HE CHARACTERIZED THAT AS "NOT BUSINESSLIKE" AND "INCONSISTENT WITH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURE." MCCALL NOTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN SEEKING TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS INFORMATION CARRIED BY THE PRESS.

9. IN CONCLUSION DAVYDOV ASKED FOR CONFIRMATION THAT HE

AND MCCALL HAD DISCUSSED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OF FACT AND HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSING CLOSING OF THE TASS SAN FRANCISCO BUREAU, AND MCCALL CONFIRMED THAT WAS ACCURATE.

10. DAVYDOV HAD A PREPARED PAPER WHICH HE PULLED OUT EARLY IN THE MEETING. HE REFERRED TO THE PAPER IN DECLARING THAT THE TASS OFFICE EXISTED BY VIRTUE OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT, AND IN COMPLAINING ABOUT PRESS STORIES, BUT HE DID NOT HAND THE PAPER OVER AND WE GUESS THAT IT HAD BEEN PREPARED ON THE ASSUMPTION HE WOULD BE TOLD THAT THE TASS OFFICE MUST CLOSE. CHRISTOPHER

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